Addition of Newer Societies or Centres to Technical Departments

2487. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Science and Technology Department keeps adding newer societies or centres;

(b) if so, the details of such additions during the last 3 years; and

(c) the details of the methodology adopted for coordinating with societies of other Scientific Departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): Depending upon the need for promoting new areas and based on review of research activities of existing institutions, the Department of Science and Technology considers setting up of new societies or centres only after careful consideration of the need and availability of funds.

(b) The details of additions during the last three years under the Department of Science and Technology are as under:

1989—Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advance Scientific Research, Bangalore.

1989—Vigyan Prasar, New Delhi.

(c) The programmes of new societies/centres are so chalked out that they carefully take into account research activities in other institutions/laboratories and also appropriate interaction and linkages are established between various research institutions by appropriately representing scientists from these institutions on the various bodies of the societies/centres.

Utilisation of ancient Indian Text in Modern Context

2488. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had assured to assist any institution or individual willing to plan and work to utilise/explore ancient Indian texts for the development of technology in modern context;

(b) if so, the names of such institutions along with their specific project and individuals who receiving Government assistance and also those whose names are under consideration; and

(c) what ancient scripts have been translated to be utilised in modern context and what are the specific subjects chosen for basic studies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The projects/studies recently sponsored by the Government are:

1. Coordinated Programmes related to Technology development in the Indian Languages, particularly Role of Indian Sanskrit Tradition in Evolving Artificial Intelligence Systems, (Department of Electronics).

2. Foundations and methodologies of theoretical sciences (logic, linguistics, mathematics, cognitive science) in Indian tradition. (National Institute for Science,

Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS).

Although modern developments may not directly be evolving from our ancient literature, some inspirations have been drawn from the work of ancient India and some examples of utilisation have been in the areas of Medicine and Health (drug based on Guggulu for hyperlipidaemia) and Metallurgy (precision casting of aeroengine blades). Some of the subjects for basic studies in Indian Traditon are logic, linguistics, mathematics and congnitive science.

2489. [*Transferred to the 20th March, 1992*].

Earthquake in Madras City

2490. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the city of Madras experienced earthquake on 11th January, 1992;

(b) whether Government have made any analysis of the seismic chart in respect of the tremors; and

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The epicentral parametres of the earthquake as determined by the India Meteorological Department, are as follows:

Origin time: 11 h 46 m 57.0s IST on 11 January, 1992.

Latitude: 9.2 ' North

Longitude: 87.2' East

Magnitude 5.5 on the Richter Scale

The epicentre was in Sea area in the Bay of Bengal about 780 Km east-southeast of Madras City.

Observations of the 78th Session of the Indian Science Congress

2491. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 78th Session of the Indian Science Congress, held at Indore in January, 1991 had recommended observance of 90s as the Indian decade for reduction of natural disaster; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have set up a National Advisory Council on International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction under the chairmanship of Minister for Agriculture to identify and recommend programmes for natural disaster mitigation during International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. Also, a Core Group has been set up in this regard by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation comprising representatives of Central Ministries/Departments/Organisations and State Governments to study the issue relating to Natural Disaster Management Programme and to identify specific areas for intervention.